

Jerusalem Grand Mufti, Led Anti-British Revolts

From News Dispatches

The grand mufti of Jerusalem and Palestine, Al Haj Amin Al Hussein, died in Beirut yesterday of a heart ailment, at the age of 80.

One of the leading Palestinian nationalist figures during the former British mandate in Palestine, Haj Amin led several revolts against the British and fought Jewish emigration.

Until his death, the religious and political leader headed the Higher Committee for Palestine, the body that organized the Arab struggle against Israel before the Palestine Liberation Organization was formed.

Born in Jerusalem, he became mufti of Palestine at the age of 24. In the absence of a nationalist civilian authority, the religious post gave him immense political power that he continued to wield, often violently, against the mandated government until Israel was established in 1948.

In his relations with German authorities during World War II, the mufti was accused of having helped recruit Moslem volunteers for Hitler's forces in the Balkans. He denied cooperating with the Nazis.

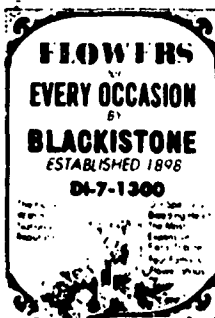
In 1948, the mufti moved to Egypt and became president of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine. But he was not authorized to return to Palestine.

In 1958, when his influence was waning, he was involved in differences with then Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, and was forced to retire.

He left Cairo for Beirut in the summer of 1960 and tried in vain to retain leadership of the Palestinian movement. But by then, younger Palestinians were turning away from him and eventually formed the Palestine Liberation Organization.



AL HAJ AMIN AL HUSSEINI



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